PANCHAYATI RAJ

APRIL 1965

1

UTILISATION OF RURAL MANPOWER

Our national Plan aims at raising the standard of living and solving the problem of unemployment. The community development projects have been launched all over the country to change the face of rural India.

The rural manpower is being utilised in irrigation and flood control projects, minor irrigation works, land reclamation, drainage, reclamation of saline land, soil conservation and road development. The three photographs show the keen desire of our village people to improve not only their own lot but also to create a better living atmosphere for the future generation.

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Picture Guide

1. *Villagers taking part in the construction of a road.*
2. *A drainage channel being constructed by villagers.*
3. *Contour bunding in progress in a community development block in Madhya Pradesh.*

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CONTENTS

LETTERS 1
COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN NEFA 2
VILLAGE WITH NO UNEMPLOYMENT 4
COPPER UTENSIL MAKERS OF TIKAMGARH —*C. D. Dobriyal* .. 4
FAIR PRICE FOR FARMER'S CROP 6
DEOBAND : NEW AVENUES OF LIVELIHOOD 8
EGGS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS 10
DODDAKANAGAL : A NEW LIFE—*N. Seetharamappa* 12
GREEN CROPS ON DRY LAND—*B. A. Sanadi* .. 13
PANCHAYAT'S ROLE IN FOOD PRODUCTION —*G. Ramamurti* 14
FROM HERE AND THERE .. 15

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LETTERS

PROSPECTS OF GRAM SEVAKS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Sir,

GRAM SEVAKS, no doubt, are playing the most vital role in implementing the community development programmes. They have been rightly described as 'pillars of planning'. The Gram Sevaks, like other officials of the Government, have taken an oath to place service before self. But lack of proper incentives in the form of promotion, increment in pay, etc., is bound to cause frustration and restlessness. This has actually happened in Andhra Pradesh. Disappointment is written large on the faces of 4,000 Gram Sevaks working in different districts of the State. Unfortunately for the Gram Sevaks, the State Government has not taken any steps to generate new zeal, vigour and enthusiasm among them. Their grievances have gone unheeded.

Recently, however, in Panchayati Raj Sammelans, held in different parts of Andhra Pradesh, it has been expressed that a successful Village Level Worker, irrespective of his academic qualifications, may be promoted to the post of Block Development Officer or Extension Officer. One only hopes that the State Government will implement these recommendations.

Perhaps it will not be improper to refer to the promotional incentives that our fellow workers get in the neighbouring States of Madras, Mysore and Kerala. At present 60 Village Level Workers are functioning as Panchayat Union Commissioners (Block Development Officers) in Madras State. Some Village Level Workers have been promoted to the rank of Extension officers on the basis of their merit and seniority. The State Government of Kerala has reserved some percentage of the posts of Block Development Officers for Village Level Workers. Most of the Extension Officers in Mysore State have been selected from Village Level Workers.

But in Andhra Pradesh no Village Level Worker has been promoted as a Block Development Officer. I feel there is a greater need to give incentives to the Gram Sevaks in Andhra Pradesh as it is a surplus State in respect of production of paddy. To check the upward trend of food price it is essential to increase production of food. The Gram Sevaks in Andhra Pradesh have done their best. The State Government should now come forward to encourage them to do more.

27-2-65
Butchempeta,
Andhra Pradesh.

Yours etc.
M. Sankara Rao
Village Level Worker

(*Continued on page 11*)

COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN NEFA

A girl of Idu Mismi tribe in NEFA busy in weaving

THE PEOPLE of North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) have proved that they are not lagging behind their countrymen in hills or in plains in marching towards prosperity, in creating a happier environment for the future generation.

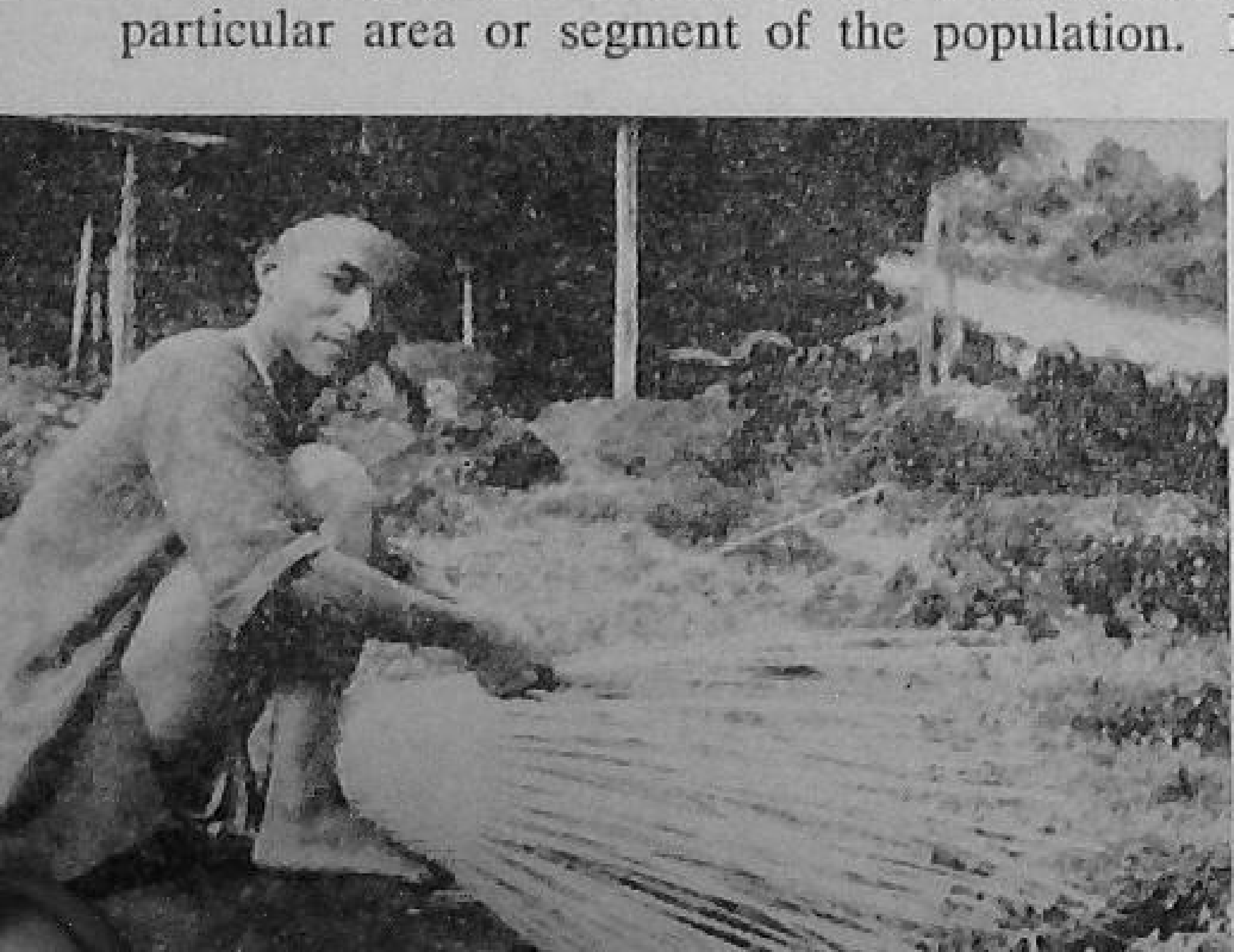
The natural environment has made people of NEFA live on a cooperative basis. They live together and fight together against nature. The spirit of cooperation is in their blood. But never before they extended this cooperation in the economic field to raise their standards of life. After Independence the people of NEFA received for the first time the attention of the Government. The cooperative movement was launched to better their economic condition.

The cooperative movement was not limited to any particular area or segment of the population. It was all comprehensive. The Wanchos, the Noctes, the Gangsas, the Mismis, the Daflas, the Adis, the Monpas, the Apatanis and others, all adopted it as an instrument for reconstituting their economy. Distance or difficult terrain could not inhibit and circumscribe the spirit of the people. On the other hand, these factors have stimulated their endeavour and cooperative institutions were orgainsed at places such as Daporijo, Mechuka, Anini, Walong, Kibitho, Tuting, Tawang and at similar other remote places.

CHINESE INVASION

When these popular institutions were progressing, there came a holocaust—the Chinese invasion. Peace and tranquillity got a rude shock. People were uprooted, their houses ransacked, cattle devoured and their cooperative institutions looted. Not a grain was left in the Cooperative Stores that had fallen to the invader.

However, no sooner did the invader retreat, leaving behind a disrupted economy, than the people with redoubled energy and efforts reconstituted their cooperative institutions. All the stores started functioning again. The variety of goods increased, branch shops of the main institutions multiplied and transactions reached an all-time record. Cooperative Stores at Lumba, Dirang, Dameng, Khenewa, Rupa etc. have



Basket making is a common pastime for the Gallongs

been organised in the Kameng Division by the people after the Chinese invasion.

Consumer cooperative stores have been functioning in far-flung and distantly located places. All sorts of articles are being supplied to the people. The task of traversing long distances to procure articles from plains of Assam are now being performed by their own institutions which undertake the transport services.

COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Sixty-one cooperative societies of various types exist today in the midst of remote villages as examples of the zeal, initiative and cooperative spirit of the people of NEFA.

According to a recent survey, all the cooperative societies have earned profit, except two which were badly affected by the Chinese aggression. The share capital base of the societies has also proved to be very strong. A large number of primary societies possess share capital between Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 40,000.

The average annual turnover of goods was worth more than Rs. 5 lakhs.

As regards recovery of overdues, the rate of realisation has been appreciably good inasmuch as the percentage of overdues recovered works out at 98%.

For the first time a central cadre of managers for the primary societies has been created and trained personnel have already been posted to run the cooperative societies. This measure is expected to result in still better performance by the societies.

TRANSPORT COOPERATIVES

Transport cooperatives have been formed. Buses are plying between North Lakhimpur and Kimin and Roing and Sadiya. Soon the people of Kameng will be travelling from Bomdi La to Tezpur in their own cooperative buses. The Apatanis and the Daflas are also having their Cooperative Transport Societies, which will carry them to North Lakhimpur. Noctes and Mismis are planning to have their own buses cooperatively managed.

Hand pounding of rice

No sooner had the buses started plying than an idea struck the people. Who would supply oil and servicing to these buses? Private businessmen? No. When cooperatives can supply consumer stores and run saw mills, why not petrol and diesel servicing stations be run cooperatively? As a result the first petrol pump inside NEFA has been functioning on a cooperative basis at Bomdi La.

Two cooperative banks, one at Daporijo and the other at Hayuling, are also working successfully.

The student community could not stand by as spectators of the general economic transformation through cooperatives. They also have come forward and set up students' cooperatives to supply their own articles.

To match the enthusiastic endeavour of the people, the NEFA Administration earmarked Rs. 11.18 lakhs during 1963-64 for the expansion of the cooperative movement.

The people of NEFA are well known for their undaunted courage and sincere and hard work. They are marching in the right direction. No doubt they would reach the cherished goal—the goal of plenty and prosperity.

A tractor working in a Government agricultural farm in NEFA

VILLAGE WITH NO UNEMPLOYMENT

GOPALPUR, a small village under Krishnanagar 1 Development Block in Nadia District of West Bengal has set up a remarkable example of self-help and agricultural progress. The village has earned the unique distinction of solving the unemployment problem within its boundaries. There is not a single unemployed person in this village and none has ever sought gratuitous relief from the Government even in the period of scarcity.

Gopalpur, which has 95 families, did not have a single brick-built house even five years back. Now thirty-four brick-built houses with some more under construction greet the eyes of a visitor. It is only through agriculture that Gopalpur has been able to make this rapid march to prosperity. About half of the villagers work on their own lands, but those who have no lands of their own also do not find any dearth of employment at any time of the year.

Through improved agricultural methods, use of manures and good irrigation facilities provided by five shallow tubewells, the village produces large quantities of paddy, jute, onion, potato and mustard seeds.

From May to October, all the villagers remain busy in the cultivation of jute and aman crops and from November to April in cultivation of onion, potato, mustard seeds and vegetables. In the peak period of agricultural activities, the village gives employment to a large number of labourers from neighbouring villages in addition to its own.

In the current year this village has produced 30 mds of jute, 27 mds of paddy and 9 mds of mustard seeds per acre on the average.

To give further incentive and training to the farmers a demonstration farm has been started by the Agriculture Department in this village.

Gopalpur is one of the many model villages in the country which are marching confidently towards the goal of self-sufficiency in all respects.

COPPER UTENSIL MAKERS OF TIKAMGARH

Prosperity Through Cooperation

C. D. DOBRIYAL

A SMALL town—Tikamgarh—in Madhya Pradesh and a small band of copper utensil makers. There was nothing to tell either about the town or the utensil makers till 1957. Till then the sixteen families of Tikamgarh engaged in copper utensil making, managed to eke out a living from their business. Till then there was no scarcity of basic raw materials like copper and zinc. There was also no inclination among the manufacturers to pool their resources and improve their lot through cooperation. But, in 1957 they were faced with a serious problem. The price of raw materials shot up and at the same time, their supply declined.

The utensil makers suddenly found themselves in a tight corner. There was no way out. No help was forthcoming. Luckily Tikamgarh had an enthusiastic manufacturer like Hira Lal. He convened a meeting of all manufacturers, and, out of their deliberations a Cooperative Society of copper utensil makers came into being, which was registered on March 17, 1959. The Society was born with thirteen members and a share capital of a meagre Rs. 130. Obviously with the limited financial resources, the Society could hardly make any headway. But a static state could not be allowed to continue for long. By 1961 things became more difficult with the problem of procuring raw material becoming more acute. The Extension Officer (Industries) of the Block came forward with a suggestion that the Society should apply for a quota of tin sheets. Efforts in this respect bore fruit. A permit for two metric tons of copper and 1.5 metric tons of zinc was obtained. This gave an impetus to the manufacturers, and the share capital was increased

with fresh contributions. The enthusiasm thus generated was readily appreciated by the Government which sanctioned a loan of Rs. 5,000 in 1963. A few days later the manufacturers met together to collect Rs. 5,200 and the total assets of the Society increased considerably. The allotment of quota for copper and zinc, henceforth, became a regular feature which enabled the Society to set up a foundation for healthy growth.

In 1963-64, even though no quota was released to the Society, a profit of Rs. 2,179.19 was made. Between April and October, 1964, the Society had purchased copper worth nearly Rs. 6,000 and sold articles to the tune of Rs. 15,025. As a result of this more than satisfactory working the Government has fixed an increased quota of 3.33 metric tons per year.

FACTORY OUTLAY

There are certain features which need mention. Every member of the Society gets an equal share of the total quota allotted and if he is not able to convert the raw material into manufactured goods within a period of two months, the next share of his quota is withheld. At present, due to the shortage of accommodation, the manufacture of utensils is done on a family basis in the homes of the members. An Industrial Estate is in the offing and the Society has been promised suitable accommodation, where the members will be able to work together in a commonshed, which will increase productivity and the quality of the goods manufactured.

MARKETING

At present the Society is making *handa* (a big round shaped pot for water), *kasaindi* (the upper portion of the neck of handa), *gundi* (round shaped pot bigger than handa), *lota* (a small pot for drinking water), *parat* (a big copper plate) and *painjana* (ornament to adorn the feet of women). All the finished articles are kept at one place under the direct charge of Shri Hira Lal, the present Manager. He has been authorised by the Society to sell the goods at market rate. The market rate is governed by the market rates in Lalitpur, Mauranipur, Jhansi and Agra. The local demand for all type of articles is very great and the Society cannot fully meet it. This is more due to the non-availability of copper and zinc. Once regular supply of the quota is assured, the Society is bound to increase its production. The Manager has been authorised to sell the articles without calling a meeting even if the rates are going down. Thus there is no unnecessary delay in disposal of articles.

DIFFICULTIES

The present area of operation of the Society is Tikamgarh city and therefore, out of 16 such potter families 13 are its members. But the Society will increase its area of operation to the whole district of Tikamgarh when a big shed has been allotted to it by the Industrial Estate. But it has to cross some hurdles before it can expand. The Society was organised to help members in procuring permit for copper and zinc and also necessary capital from the Government. Since its organisation, however, permit for copper and zinc has not been regularly obtained. Also capital has not been available to push up the work. The Society has put in an application for increased quota of both copper and zinc. Applications for a loan of Rs. 25,000 to Industries Department and foundation subsidy of Rs. 5,000 to Cooperative Department have already been sent. Similarly an application for a loan of Rs. 16,000 for machinery on hire purchase system from National Small Industries Corporation has been sent. If demands of the Society are met in full, its progress is bound to be speedy.

Sales tax (at the rate of 6 per cent) is having an adverse effect on the development of the Society. The Society has submitted an application to the Cooperative Department and Sales Tax Department for exemption. If the Society is not exempted, it will have to pay a heavy amount even on the sales made in the past, though it did not charge any sales tax from the customers. Moreover, the Society is paying heavy rate of interest on the deposit. An early sanction of working loan by the Government will no doubt free the Society from this financial burden.

The cooperative society (known as Tamrakar Garha Udyog Sahkari Samiti Ltd.) of the copper utensil makers of Tikamgarh like so many cooperative societies in the country has proved that cooperation is the path to sure success.

FAIR PRICE FOR FARMER'S CROP

Sangli Regulated Market Shows the Way

SANGLI in Maharashtra has leapt into fame by making a spectacular development of agro-industries. Here also a regulated market has been set up to ensure that the agricultural producer can sell his produce at a fair price.

The visitor to Sangli notices fully-loaded bullock carts and lorries, instead of limousines, entering what seems the portals of a seat of learning. The plaster cast above the imposing gates, however, proclaims it the Regulated Market. A little beyond the fence is the Market Committee Office housed in a new two-storeyed building set in lush green surroundings. Further in only, on the 100-acre site, does the visitor come across the red brown of the market yards and godowns, rest houses and canteens with green interspersed, around water troughs for cattle. The post office stands out prominent in the middle.

Farmers in bulging carts, alongside merchants and *dalals* in cars and scooters, with the pedestrian making for the inevitable shortcut, set the tempo in the Market early in the day. A relieving feature is the absence of congestion accounted for by the wide roads and open spaces. Caught in the mood one is apt to take for granted the orderliness in the Market as a time-honoured practice. However, the Market itself is of recent origin. Following a survey in 1949 the then Government of Bombay declared the old bazar within the city the principal market yard. Trade in turmeric, chillies, gur and groundnut was thenceforth regulated.

The modern office building of the Market Committee of Sangli Regulated Market

The management was entrusted to a 15-member Marketing Committee consisting of elected representatives of farmers, traders and local bodies and Government nominees.

In a little over a decade since then the Market has taken in approximately 70 per cent of the trade in 19 agricultural commodities. Farmer-producers from 200 villages in neighbouring taluks now avail of its facilities.

THE DIFFERENCE

How is this regulated market different from any other commodity market or *mandi?* Like the thousand and odd regulated markets throughout the country, the Sangli market strives to secure for the primary agricultural producer a fair price for his produce. It offers modern marketing facilities and helps in eliminating malpractices. Optimum conditions obtain for the seller. Sales are supervised, proper weighment done and sale proceeds promptly paid.

In the past, the agriculturist—the primary producer—was largely at the mercy of the commission agent or the trader. Unauthorised deductions cut deeply into his profits. For instance, in pre-regulation days in the Sangli Market unauthorised levies totalled 175 lbs out of every cartload of 1,200 lbs of groundnut; 66 lbs of gur per cartload of 1,400 lbs; 188 lbs per cartload of turmeric weighing 1,200 lbs and 170 lbs out of every 1,200 lbs in a cartload of chillies.

The loss to the "man behind the plough" could well be imagined from the fact that 50,000 carts pass through Sangli Market every year.

SALE PROCEDURE

The sale of goods in the Market follows a well-defined pattern. All the produce brought to the Market is generally sold by open auction. In exceptional cases, when there is no time left, sale by "open agreement" is permitted.

A farmer reaching the Market with his produce first pays a small cess. Cess receipt in hand he then proceeds to the cooperative society or commission agent who will arrange the marketable goods in lots for sale according to grade.

The produce is then auctioned by the auction clerk, an employee of the Market Committee. At the conclusion of the auction, details of the price agreed upon, the purchaser's name and the quantity sold are entered in the auction register. An agreement slip is prepared to which the buyer and the auction clerk also append their signatures. This is to prevent the parties from going back on their word. A copy of the agreement is filed with the Market Committee.

The auctioned lot is next weighed by a licenced weighman and the weighment slip is lodged with the Market Committee. After weighment the 'sale' or 'account' slip is prepared by the cooperative society or commission agent. Payment of the sale proceeds to the farmer is promptly arranged.

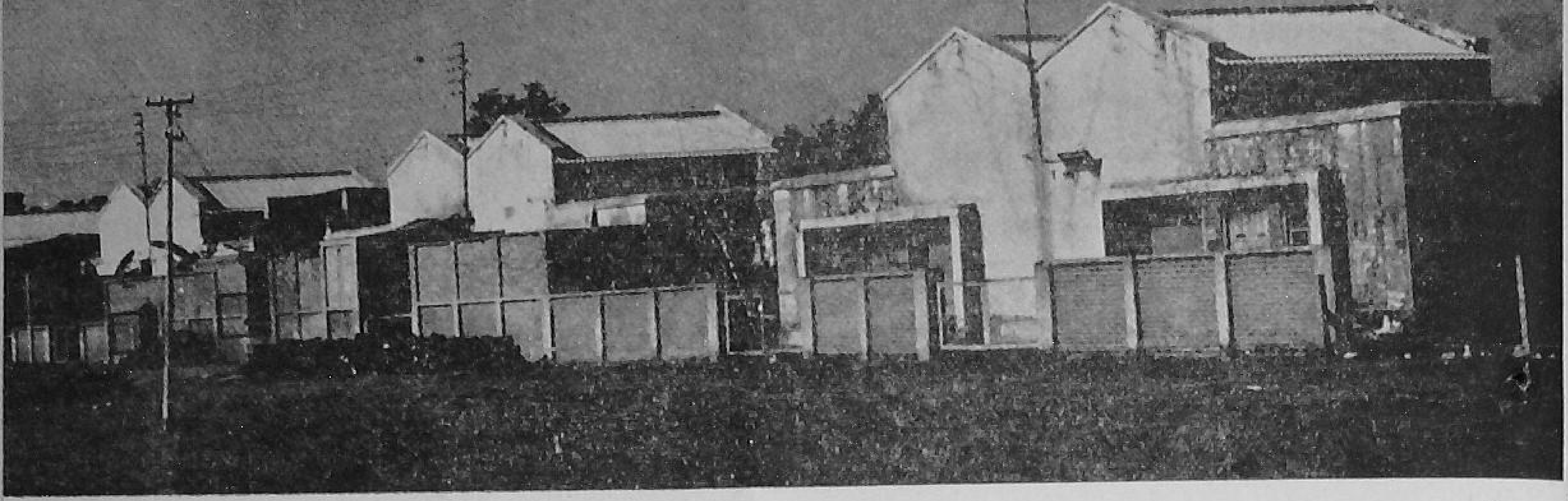
Though the transaction is then closed this is not the end. The Market Committee continues the initial contact with the farmer-producer with a variety of market intelligence reports which are brought almost to his door at the village. Daily arrivals of produce and minimum and maximum prices of regulated commodities in Sangli and nearby key markets are also posted at the Market Committee office. A monthly bulletin of arrivals and price trends is circulated to gram panchayats and cooperative societies in the Market area.

Purchases being carted away from the Market

At the State level, the Sangli Marketing Committee is one of the agencies selected by the Government of Maharashtra for furnishing daily commodity prices which are later broadcast over All India Radio, Bombay.

The Sangli Market also serves as a practical training ground for one of the two All India Market Secretaries Training Centres run by the Government of India. The other Training Centre is at Hyderabad. Since the Market is now an important assembling point, the Central Warehousing Corporation has put up special godowns for the storage of turmeric in bulk and of gur, groundnut and foodgrains.

With an annual business turnover of Rs. 6 crores the members of the Marketing Committee can legitimately credit themselves with building up a "common market" which is now the backbone of the community.



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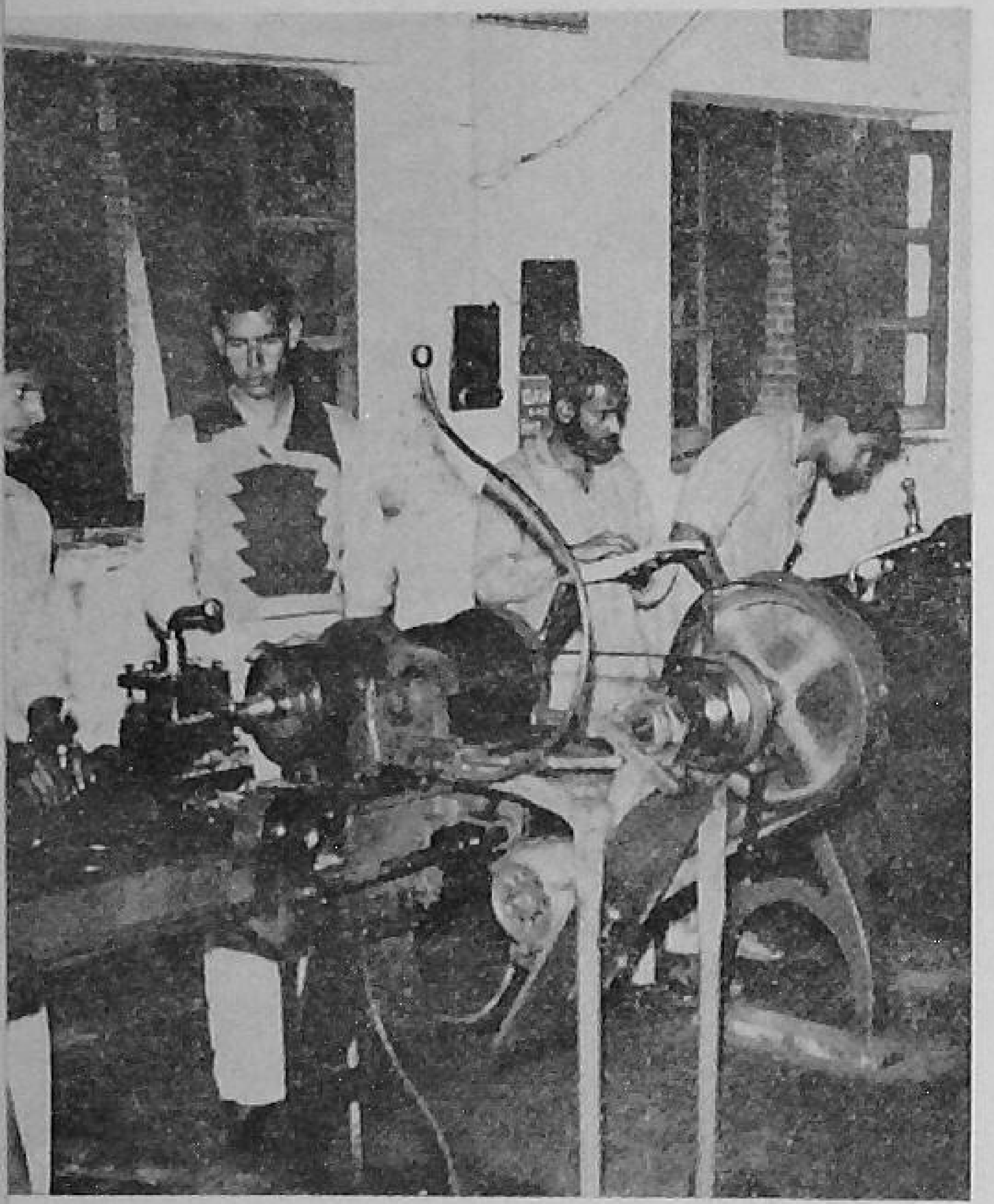


DEOBAND : NEW AVENUE

THE first rural industrial estate in Uttar Pradesh has gone into production at Deoband, a small town in Saharanpur district. The commissioning of the small but well-planned cluster of modest enterprises not only heralds a new era in the economic life of this ancient seat of Arabic learning, but stands out as inspiring example to other rural areas in the State where such projects are under way.

At present, the rural estate has a provision for 30 industrial units only, out of which 26 have already started functioning. The remaining four are installing their plants and would soon be commissioned.

The units have been carefully selected to ensure

3

4

Picture Guide

1. A general view of the Industrial Project at Deoband
2. Lathe machinists at work
3. Manufacture of agricultural implements
4. Boys getting training in leather work
5. Manufacture of tin containers
6. Attractive dolls are also made at the Project

6

ES OF LIVELIHOOD

ready market for their products. These produce a variety of articles like tin cans, agricultural implements, automobile parts, conduit pipes, measuring tapes, trunks and buckets, wires drawing and surveying instruments, wood screws, cheap jewellery etc.

About 150 persons have been gainfully em- d in the estate, opening new avenues of livelihood to the predominantly agricultural population of this area.

The estate provides all the requisites to the small entrepreneurs in the shape of factory buildings, power, water, roads, raw materials, etc. It is adjacent to the Deoband railway station and is on the main high way.

5

EGGS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

applied nutrition programme in madras

THEY stand patiently in a queue and take boiled eggs with folded hands. This is a common sight at seven rural extension training centres at Arni, Krishnagiri, Bhavanisagar, Pattukottai, Thiruvidamarudur, T. Kallupatti and Koilpatti in Madras State. Eggs for expectant mothers. This is a part of the Applied Nutrition Programme which is steadily gaining momentum in the State.

The Programme aims at encouraging villagers in the production and distribution of nutritionally valuable food, providing adequate training to Village Level Workers and arrangement of training programme for village leaders. It is being implemented with the assistance of UNICEF.

Large poultry units have been established in each of the several rural extension training centres. These units are supplying birds to the village poultry units. The State Government meets 75 per cent of the cost of construction of poultry houses, the remaining 25 per cent being met by the Panchayats. The equipments and free balanced ration to feed the birds were supplied by the State Government for one year in the first instance and extended for another year subsequently. The question of extending the assistance for one more year, is under consideration. After the Government assistance is withdrawn, the Panchayats are expected to maintain the units with their own resources. The Panchayats in turn are expected to supply 5,000 eggs to all pregnant and nursing mothers and pre-school children in every 2,000 population, for the 'project period' of 3 years. The total number of eggs so far freely distributed to the beneficiaries is 5,19,656. These eggs have been supplied by 249 poultry units.

PISCICULTURE

To increase the production of fish, all available ponds are stocked with fingerlings. Fingerlings are supplied by the Fisheries Department free of cost to the Panchayats for three years. In turn, the Panchayats are required to supply 1,000 pounds of fish every year, to 50 expectant and nursing mothers and 100 pre-school children in each 1,000 population. So far 2,90,578 lbs. of fish have been supplied to expectant and nursing mothers.

In order to have more vegetables, village gardens up to 5 acres each, have been started by the Panchayats. So far, 103 gardens have been started. Besides, gardens are started in schools. The vegetables produced in these gardens are used for the feeding of beneficiaries under Applied Nutrition Programme.

Milk powder is supplied by UNICEF for this programme. This is distributed to expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children in all the villages, covered by this programme. The total number of beneficiaries is 84,88,014.

The best method of improving nutrition is, both to teach and help the family to grow more food and use it better. Hence, special training is necessary for the people in poultry, pisciculture, horticulture etc. About

Eggs being distributed to expectant mothers at a centre in Madras

2,380 persons consisting of prominent non-officials such as Chairmen of Panchayat Unions, Panchayat Presidents, Village Level Workers, women workers, teachers, etc. have been given this training. The responsibility of implementing the programme at block level, lies on the Chairmen and the Commissioners of Panchayat Unions, as well as the Principals of Training Centres. In order to co-ordinate the activities of different agencies, a Coordination Committee has been constituted at the Block level, with the Panchayat Union Chairman, Panchayat Union Commissioner and the Principal of the Rural Extension Training Centre concerned. The Joint Development Commissioner is administratively responsible for the coordination of the programmes at State level.

All-round progress has been observed in Krishnagiri, T. Kallupatti, Tiruvidamarudhur and Bhavanisagar Blocks. Malnutrition can be prevented, if mothers learn to give their children suitable combinations of food, which are already part of family diet or which can be obtained without difficulty.

LETTERS

(*Continued from page* 1)

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN RAJASTHAN

Sir,

AFTER THE introduction of democratic decentralisation in Rajasthan the primary schools in the villages came under the direct control of Panchayats. I do not propose to raise the controversy whether schools should or should not have been taken away from the supervision of the Inspectorate of Education Department. I only want to point out how the schools are being run now by the Panchayats. The recent state of affairs, I may add, is far from being satisfactory. If immediate remedial measures are not taken, the rural children in Rajasthan —the responsible citizens of tomorrow—would suffer tremendously.

Most of the village primary schools today have only one teacher. As the teacher is the sole monarch and as there is none in the village to supervise him, he takes things easy. Generally he is not found in his school. He is, however, regular in submitting the required statements and receiving his pay. Only those teachers who have to work also as village postmasters are found in their schools for the obvious reasons. Whether the teacher is present or not, there is a general atmosphere of indifference to students and studies.

At some schools efforts were made to penalise the teacher for his negligence. But in almost all cases the teachers have been able to pull strings through their personal relation with Sarpanches and escape the penalty.

I think the village teachers can be stopped playing truants if all the Extension Officers in a Panchayat Samiti are directed to visit the village school during their tours. As there is a dozen of these officers in each Panchayat Samiti, this would result in a frequent check on the activities of the teacher. On the basis of complaints received from Extension Officers the teachers have to be penalised financially or otherwise.

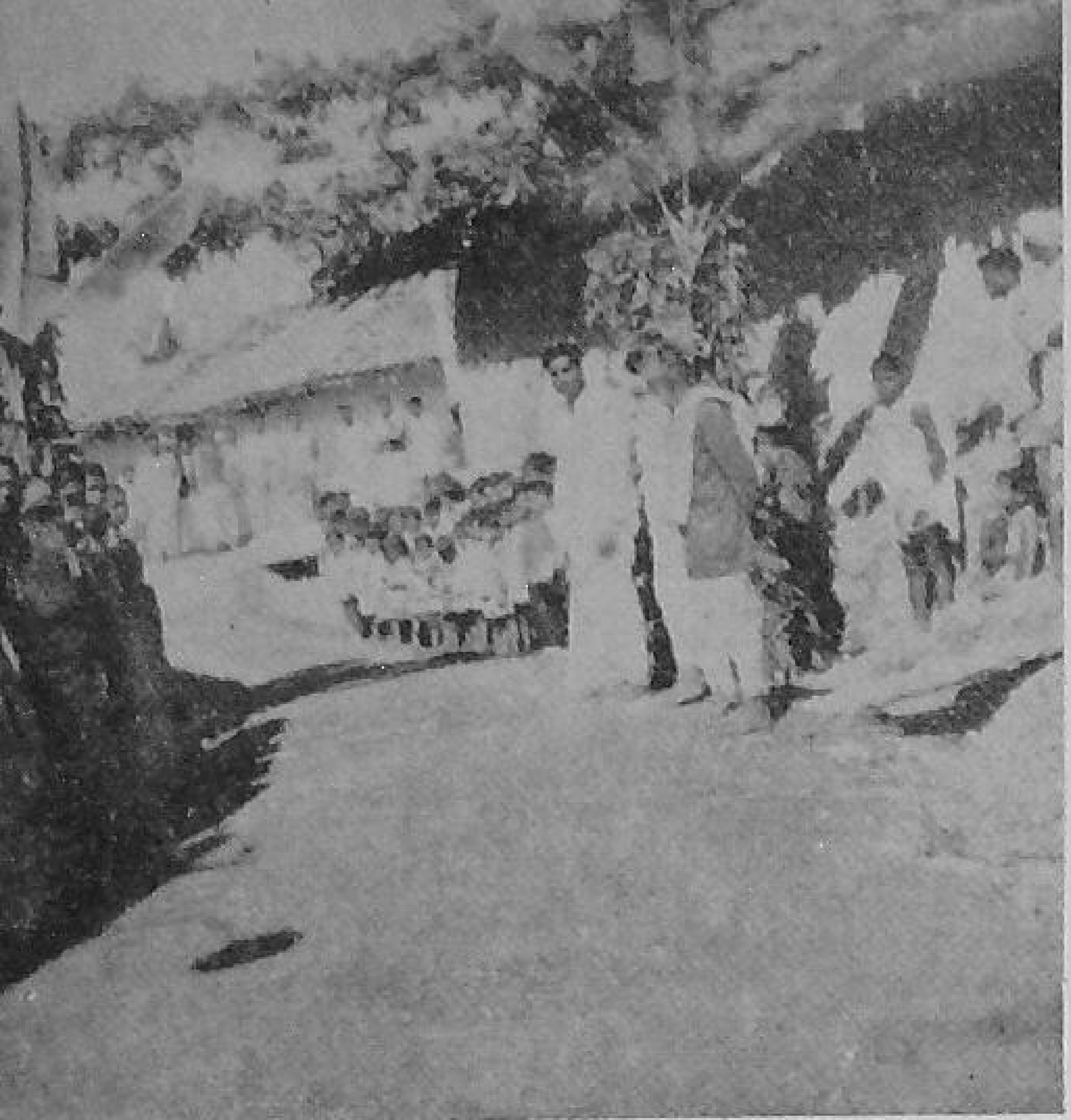
The Panchayat Samiti can issue a monthly cyclostyled bulletin on the activities of school teachers. The bulletin should reach each primary school, panchayat reading room, Vikas Mandal, etc.

The school should receive more attention from the Gram Sabha. If the students do not fare well in examinations, action should be taken against the teacher concerned.

If all these measures are adopted, I am sure, the standard of teaching will considerably improve in the village schools.

25-2-65
Ladnun,
Rajasthan

Yours etc.
Anand Prakash Arya



DODDAKANAGAL : A NEW LIFE

N. SEETHARAMAPPA

THE RIVER Yagachi slowly meandered by. There were Doddakanagal and eight villages on its left bank, about 12 miles from Hassan, the headquarters of Hassan district of Mysore. Nine insignificant villages, the people of which were quarrelsome. To live in cooperation was unknown to them. To work for the betterment of the community was an unthinkable matter. Nobody cared to work for the future generation. Well, they did not get anything worth mentioning from their past generation. Why should they worry for the future generation? Thus the villages passed on through internal strifes and all-round miseries.

But all was not lost at Doddakanagal and its adjoining eight villages. These villages were just waiting for a magic touch from outside which was provided by Community Development project.

Suddenly Doddakanagal stepped into a new life. The prevailing bitterness yielded place to sweet cooperation. Doddakanagal throbbed with a new life. It started its march to prosperity and it leapt into fame when in 1963-64 it was adjudged as the best village at the district level.

Today Doddakanagal tells the story of its unique achievement. If one goes around he will find what correct leadership can attain. The Panchayat of Doddakanagal is a source of inspiration to all the villages that are still lagging behind. A brief account of the activities of the Panchayat will show that it aims at welfare of not only the present community but also of the community of the future.

All the nine villages have facility for clean drinking water. There is a metalled road to connect all of them. The major portion of the road was made by voluntary labour and contribution of the villagers. Five primary schools with playgrounds have been established.

One library has been set up with the assistance of the State Adult Education Council.

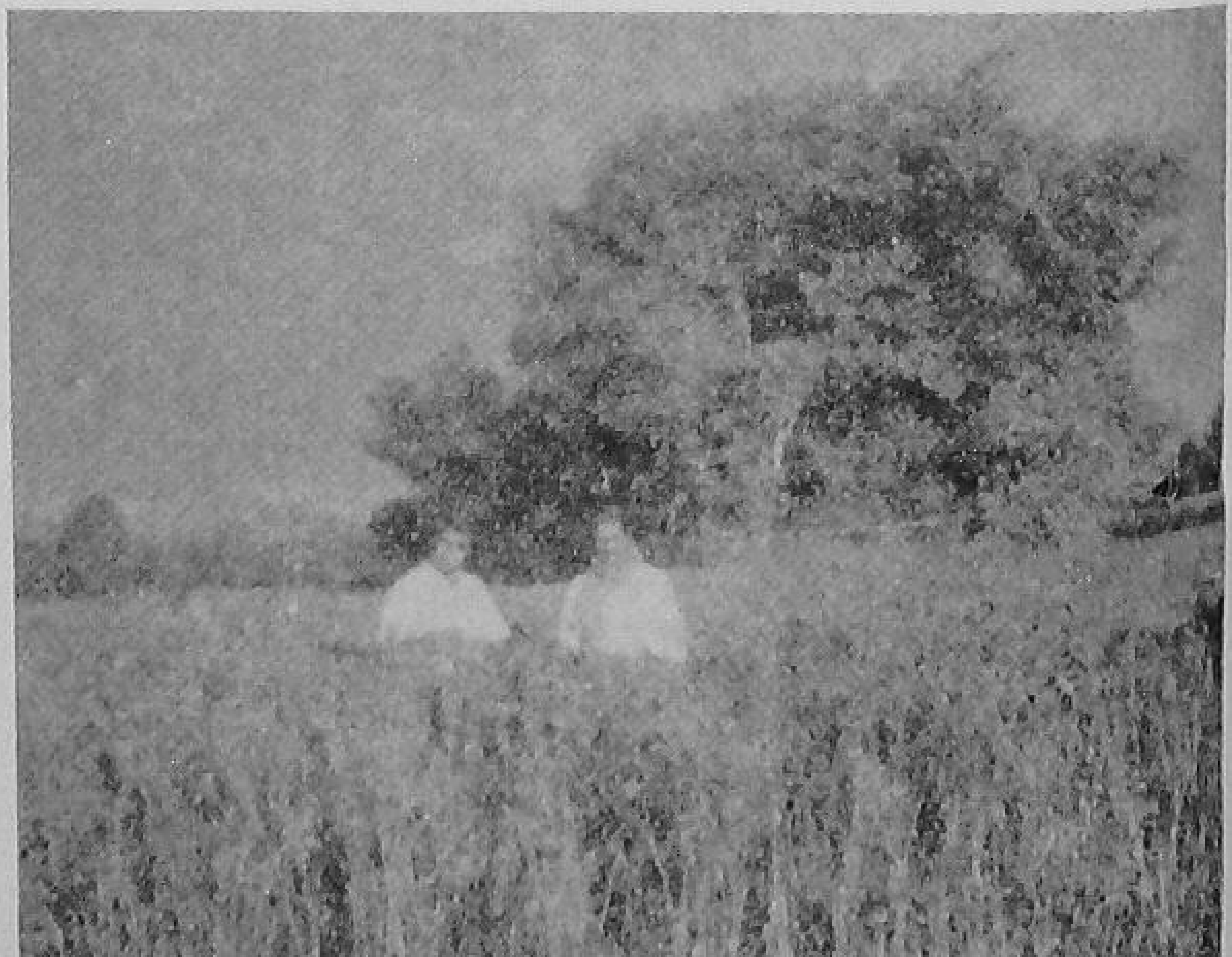
The Panchayat has also purchased land to build a school, cooperative store, dispensary, community hall, Women's Club and Shishuvihar (Children's Hall).

The youth club known as Yuvak Mandal is very active. The Panchayat has provided it with four acres of land so that the members of the club may grow fruits and vegetables. The youth club produces ragi which is served as mid-day meal to school children. The members of the youth club have also built three houses on contract basis. They maintain compost pits and look after poultry. Their efforts and inspiration have resulted in increasing paddy production by 15 per cent and ragi production by 25 per cent. The Panchayat has undertaken pisciculture also.

No more people of Doddakanagal rush to courts for litigation. They have their own Nyaya Panchayat which has settled about 75 cases to the mutual satisfaction of the parties.

Doddakanagal has set foot on the right path and with course of time its march towards prosperity will be speedier.

Ragi raised by Youth Club of Doddakanagal on common land



GREEN CROPS ON DRY LAND

Story of Malkajappa's Achievement

B. A. SANADI

THIS IS the story of Malkajappa of Madiyal, a small village in Andhra Pradesh. With strong determination and hard labour Malkajappa has not only changed the lot of his own family but also has shown to his fellow cultivators that the sure way to earn more is to grow more. Grow more despite all hurdles. Grow more depending on your own strength. Malkajappa is rightly honoured today as the hero of Madiyal village.

Malkajappa found it impossible to maintain a big family of eleven members from the produce of a small plot of four acres and thirteen gunthas. That too was mostly dry. His four sons worked as hired labourers in the fields of others.

Malkajappa begged from door to door of the landlords to give him a piece of land on lease so that he could maintain his family. But no. Nobody wanted to part with his land. What was the guarantee that Malkajappa would not ultimately turn into a 'protected tenant' !

Malkajappa was in great despair. There was not the slightest ray of hope to be seen anywhere. When the help from outside did not come, Malkajappa and his sons decided to follow the maxim that 'self-help is the best help'. Their land would yield more if it was properly irrigated, they knew. So they thought of digging a well in their land with their own labour.

The entire family worked together with great devotion hoping that mother land would certainly bless them with due returns in the form of green crops.

Day and night was one to them till they completed the well. When Malkajappa first saw fresh water in his well, he danced with joy. It was a day on which his life itself took a turn.

During the first year Malkajappa's yield on irrigation was not so encourgaing. Next year he brought his land to a proper level so that water could evenly flow on all parts of his field. He had bumper crops of chillies, sugarcane etc., after he adopted new methods of irrigation.

Prior to irrigation, Malkajappa was getting about eight quintals of *jowar* worth Rs. 300 from his dry land. After the well was dug and irrigation was adopted, the income increased to Rs. 3,000. The entire family was happy not only because it got sufficient income from its small piece of land but also because all of them could engage themselves fully on the same land. Now, they need not go to anybody to beg for daily wages, nor for another piece of land to cultivate.

Malkajappa now realised that improved methods would lead him to quick success. He adopted new methods of cultivation. His intensive cultivation gave him rich return which enabled him to purchase three pairs of bullocks, a number of improved implements and other essential things for developing his land.

His ambition did not end with getting sufficient income from his original piece of land. He managed to purchase another piece of land measuring ten acres and that too adjacent to his former field. His field now measures 14 acres and 23 gunthas. But now this vast area has given rise to another problem. How could he manage to irrigate such a vast area without a pump-set ? Yes, it is his first need of the moment. He is determined to get one and irrigate the entire land of his pride.

Malkajappa's pride of self-help in respect of irrigation and intensive cultivation has its own effect on his neighbours and nearby villagers. There are a number of persons having vast lands. But they have yet to learn how irrigation could help them to get more from their lands. Malkajappa has shown a concrete example to them. It is only after seeing the fruits gained by Malkajappa that not less than a dozen wells were newly dug by the villagers of Madiyal. Out of these twelve wells, six have been installed with irrigation pump sets. The dry lands of the village which had a pale face so far, are now smiling with green crops.

PANCHAYAT'S ROLE IN FOOD PRODUCTION

G. RAMAMURTI

OUR country faces food crisis from time to time. There is a regular drain on our valuable foreign exchange on account of the huge amount of food imports. But our Government is determined to put an end to this want for ever and stop the imports of food. Needless to say, the Government cannot attain success in this respect unless the people respond with zeal and render full hearted cooperation. It is a national problem which calls for national efforts for its solution.

The fight for freedom from hunger, has of course to be started at village level. The Panchayats have to play a very important role in freeing the country from dependence on foreign countries for food.

In order to raise agricultural production several incentives are offered, such as, easy credit, subsidised fertilizers and implements. Any method which would enable the cultivators to cut down costs of cultivation would equally be a good incentive. The cultivators will not only be glad but also feel grateful for showing them the way. And herein lies the responsibility of the Panchayat. The presidents of the Panchayats should not content themselves merely with collection and expenditure of revenues, laying roads, starting schools, dispensaries and the like but should concern themselves actively with the problem of bringing down costs of cultivation. They will be the best judges to decide as to which items of cultivation expenses can be pruned and to what extent.

The items which generally go into the expenses of cultivation are cost of seeds, fertilizers, hire charges or repairing charges of agricultural implements and labour charges. Moreover, there are taxes to be paid for land and irrigation. The cultivators are also required to pay interest on capital investments such as bulls, buffaloes, seeds and fertilizers.

All these factors need to be taken into consideration while devising means to cut down the costs of cultivation. It is clear that the cultivators have no hand in reducing taxes which are levied by the Government.

As regards other items, wastage can, to some extent, be eliminated by using seeds with a high percentage of germination. Use of improved seeds by a larger number of agriculturists should, therefore, be encouraged.

About fertilizers it may be pointed out that chemical fertilizers are quite expensive. If the village is within the vicinity of a forest it is advisable to encourage cultivators to use green manures. This will in some measure lessen the pressure on chemical fertilizers and will cost less.

LABOUR CHARGES

Labour charges are rather heavy now-a-days. It is no fault of the labourer that he is demanding higher wages for agricultural operations. The cost of living has gone up and naturally he cannot accept starvation wages. For large holdings, mechanised operations can in some cases be cheaper but then, the large scale adoption of such operations creates the more serious problem of unemployment in rural areas.

Some reduction can probably be made in lift charges if, instead of the oil engine, the electric-motor is used. But, this again depends on the availability of power and feasibility of its supply to the particular village.

Interest charges can definitely be reduced. The cultivator is hard pressed for money during the two seasons of transplantation and harvesting. Generally he rushes to the nearest money-lender who obliges him immediately but at an exorbitant rate of interest, notwithstanding laws to the contrary. The Government provides credit but elaborate and troublesome formalities have to be observed to obtain it. That is why the cultivator generally prefers to go to the money-lender who meets his financial requirement immediately. This is a field in which presidents of Panchayats can play a prominent part. Disbursement of loans can be made their special responsibility. They can probably be provided with an imprest of a few thousand rupees which they can draw without cumbersome formalities and help some needy villagers. Before they draw the next imprest they must account for the previous imprest in the regular way.

There might be several items under which reduction of expenses in cultivation can be effected. It should be the endeavour of the Panchayat to review the cultivation expenses before the season of agricultural operations begins and see what percentage of the costs can be cut without of course, affecting efficiency in agriculture.

FROM HERE AND THERE

STUDENTS' SYMPOSIUM ON PANCHAYATI RAJ

A dozen students, representing various Indian Universities, took part in a symposium contest on Panchayati Raj held on February 19, 1965 at the Delhi School of Economics in Delhi. The symposium, the first of its kind to be held in Delhi, was organised by the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation.

The students discussed the role of Panchayati Raj in providing a base for political democracy and acting as a catalyst for social and economic democracy. Difficulties in constituting and administering Panchayati Raj bodies, the role of political parties in Panchayati Raj elections, measures to ensure the democratic objectives of Panchayati Raj and problems of inter-linking these institutions with State and Central legislatures were discussed at length.

Shri P. N. Dada and Shri Prabhu, both of Bombay University, were adjudged the best speakers and were awarded the first and second prizes respectively.

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GIANT-SIZE VEGETABLES IN SINDRI FARM

THE FERTILIZER trial station of Fertilizer Corporation of India at Sindri in Bihar has produced in its farm giant-size vegetables including brinjals, potatoes and tomatoes. The brinjals grown are so big that three of them would fill a sack. The farm has also produced 12.4 maunds of paddy per acre in its fields which is claimed to be record yield in the State.

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NASIK GIVES THOUSANDS OF BAGS OF PADDY

TWENTY-ONE thousand bags of paddy were collected within a few days by the agriculturists of Nasik district of Maharashtra. A group of small villages, Dhumode, Ambivali, Brahmawada, Taloda, etc., far in the interior from Trimbekeshwar in Nasik district, gave 4,200 bags of paddy in rows and rows of carts. They were collected within four days against a target of only 1,000 bags. Another 1,000 bags were promised to be given in one week. In another village Gouti the agriculturists competed with each other to give as much as possible. Nearly 16,000 bags of paddy of excellent quality had been collected.

COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN SURGUJA DISTRICT

THE COOPERATIVE movement in Surguja district of Madhya Pradesh with the liberal assistance of the State Government has made great success.

At present there are 440 service societies, 226 primary credit societies, 10 large sized societies, 9 better farming societies, 6 farming societies and 156 other societies working in the district.

The District Cooperative Bank is playing a significant role in making the movement a success. The banks give credit facilities to serve societies, better farming societies, marketing societies etc. which finance the cultivators in cash and in shape of taccavi loans for fertilizers, seeds etc.

Besides multipurpose societies, forest labour cooperative societies are also being organized under tribal welfare scheme and they are being provided with financial assistance.

For augmenting agricultural output, five cooperative farming societies under pilot scheme and two farming societies under non-pilot schemes are being given financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 77,018.00 during the year 1964-65.

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SIXTH COOPERATIVE RICE MILL IN RAIPUR DISTRICT

THE SIXTH cooperative rice mill of Raipur district at Nawapara in Abhanpur Development Block built at a cost of Rs. 1,22,000 was recently inaugurated by Shri B. S. Murty, Union Deputy Minister for Community Development and Co-operation. Eleven cooperative rice mills have been allotted to Raipur district out of which six have already been established and the remaining five would start working by the end of the current cooperative year.

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SILWANI BLOCK MARCHES AHEAD

OVER 800 quintals of improved seed were distributed to the farmers in the Silwani Block of the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh during the quarter ending December 31, 1964. Besides, 250 quintals of ammonium sulphate and 94 quintals of super-phosphate were also distributed. Further, 43 compost pits were dug

and one oil engine was supplied.

In the field of animal husbandry, three improved bulls were supplied, 278 animals were castrated, and 171 animals were treated by V.L.Ws. During the quarter under review, 6 pucca cattle sheds and 11 improved mangers were constructed.

Under minor irrigation works, eight pucca wells were constructed and four pucca wells were repaired, while three pump sets were installed.

To improve the rural sanitation, 15 soakage-pits were dug and two drinking water wells were constructed and three hand-pumps were installed. Disinfection of 81 drinking water wells was also done.

During the quarter, 5 youth clubs and 7 Mahila Mandals were started, bringing the total number of members of these organisations to 634.

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RECORD YIELD OF PADDY

Shri Sakharam Singh of village Saddu in Hilda Development Block and Shri Harendra Kumar Sahu of village Khursenga in Kurud Block have secured first and second places respectively in the paddy competition held in Raipur district of Madhya Pradesh this year. Shri Bhuwanlal of village Usarijar in Deobhog Block secured third place.

The paddy yield of Shri Sakharam was 31 quintals 20 kilograms per acre, while Shri Sahu got 27 quintals 42 kilograms per acre. This year 35 cultivators from 9 blocks participated in the competition. Highest paddy yield secured last year was 25 quintals 14 kilograms per acre.

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PISCICULTURE IN NEFA

The pisciculture programme launched by the North-East Frontier Agency Administration has proved to be popular.

The demand for digging of fish ponds is on the increase. There are now 185 fish ponds throughout the Agency covering an area of nearly 30 acres. So far, nearly 5,950,000 fingerlings have been stocked in village ponds.

The Administration subsidises costs on construction of ponds and supplies suitable species of fingerlings to villagers.

Three seed multiplication centres have been set up to meet the requirements of fingerlings locally.

INTENSIVE CULTIVATION SCHEME IN SUTAHATA

Sutahata Development Block No. 1 in Midnapore district of West Bengal will be brought under the Intensive Cultivation Scheme in the current year.

As a preparatory measure, a two-day Training Camp was organised by the Sutahata No. 1 Block Development office for the progressive cultivators of the area. The training included lectures and practical demonstrations by the specialists on different aspects of scientific methods of cultivation.

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PADDY PRODUCTION IN SITARGANJ JAIL

The production of paddy in the Sampurnanad Agricultural-*cum*-Industrial Camp Jail, Sitarganj in Uttar Pradesh has recorded a four-fold increase over the production of last year.

The camp jail has produced 7,300 maunds of paddy this year as compared to 1,600 maunds produced last year. The average yield of paddy was as high as 22 maunds per acre. The camp jail also expects a good harvest of wheat sown over an area of nearly 1,000 acres this year.

The reasons for this success lay in the adoption of transplantation method, use of improved variety of seed and more fertilizers, besides the keen interest taken by both the prisoners and the jail officials to increase food production.

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THEY ALSO SAVE

Shoeshine boys of Hazratganj in Lucknow (U.P.) have formed a savings group to invest their earnings in small savings schemes. Each of the fifteen members of the group has opened a post office savings banks account. They have further resolved to deposit an amount ranging between Rs. 5 and Rs. 30 per month in small savings accounts.

Encouraged by the benefits of the scheme, these boys are canvassing with their coworkers in other localities of the city to form a savings group.

Some of the boys are saving out of their earnings as much as Rs. 2 daily. "An investment in small savings schemes", they plead, "is symbolic of our humble contribution towards all-out efforts for the defence and development of the country."

TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW

The river is the source of our happiness. The rich fertile silt that it brings from the highlands turns the plains into a smiling green. The river has been rightly respected as our mother.

But it is also a destroyer. In monsoon the river changes from a source of happiness to that of utter misery. It indulges in ruthless destruction.

We want to have the river as our benefactor and not as our destroyer. The photograph showing a stretch of the Kosi river in Bihar tells, as in a miniature, the story of all rivers. With the momentum gathered from its flow from the heights, it spreads in the plains, drifting into wayward currents, running in gorges where its course is blocked by highland ridges, flooding the low-lying banks, eroding the higher ground further back.

This obviously cannot go on for ever. After independence our government is making an all-out effort to tame the turbulent waters in great river valley projects, some of which have become landmarks in the world's irrigation and flood-control history. The water resources in the country have been estimated at 1,356 million acre-feet. Up to 1951, about 17 per cent of the usable flow had been utilised. By the end of the Second Plan, this percentage was stepped up to 27. By the end of the Third Plan, India hopes to bring up the proportion to about 36 per cent of the total usable flow.

Captain Rattan Singh, a progressive Punjabi farmer has harvested 70 maunds of hybrid maize per acre. This is seven times the national average for local maize.

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